

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

North Dakota Department of Health Explains Changes to Flu Website and Process For Reporting Cases This Influenza Season

BISMARCK, N.D. – Sept. 1, 2009, marked the beginning of the 2009-2010 influenza season, and as a result, members of the media and the public will notice changes to the North Dakota Department of Health's influenza website (<a href="www.ndflu.com">www.ndflu.com</a>).

People visiting <a href="www.ndflu.com">www.ndflu.com</a> now will be able to access information regarding flu cases on one map that includes all strains of influenza (seasonal strains and novel H1N1). Charts on the main page will break down cases according to the strain. Novel H1N1 cases are included on the first line of the chart labeled "Type A, Novel H1N1." Users also will have the option of clicking on a specific county to see county-specific data.

Because the new influenza season started Sept. 1, 2009, the case counts have been reset to zero and cases shown on the main page reflect activity since September 1. Archived case information for H1N1 still can be found by clicking on the Novel H1N1 link on the right side of the page. That H1N1 page also will continue to be the place to find a variety of information and resources regarding novel H1N1 influenza.

The ndflu.com website will be updated each Wednesday through the influenza season. We encourage members of the media to use this site for updated case information and other statistics.

For more information, contact Michelle Feist or Tracy Miller, Division of Disease Control, at 701.328.2378.

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Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at <a href="https://www.nddohpressroom.gov">www.nddohpressroom.gov</a>.

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